

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2257
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
INDO ITALIAN TASK FORCE
Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Italy have decided to set up a joint task force to combat international terrorism and crime;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any agreement has also been signed in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) – (d) India and Italy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 15th February 2007 at New Delhi for setting up a Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism and Transnational Crime. The Working Group shall meet once a year, alternately in India and Italy. The first meeting will take place within six months from the date of the signing of the MoU and define the objectives and scope of the Working Group. The Ministry of External Affairs will be the nodal agency on the Indian side responsible for implementation of the MoU.